

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 03725 021400 Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3494

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3725

EXDIS

E. O. 11653: GDS

TAGS: OCON, IN

SUBJ: DEPSEC VISIT SOUTH ASIA

REF: STATE 056675

1. GIVEN PENCHANT INDIAN PRESS AT THIS STAGE TO OVER
INTERPRET INDO- US CONTACTS, I THINK WE WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO
PLAY VISIT IN FAIRLY LOW KEY. PRESENTATION TO PRESS SHOULD HIGH-
LIGHT CONTINUING US INTEREST IN SOUTH ASIA AND IN REGULAR EXCHANGE
OF VIEWS WITH INDIAN AND OTHER AREA LEADERS. IT SHOULD AVOID
STIRRING UP SPECULATION ABOUT NEW AID DEVELOPMENTS OR US EAGER-
NESS TO MOLLIFY INDIA.

2. I DON' T THINK WE WOULD GAIN ANYTHING FROM A PRESS
CONFERENCE UNLESS DEPSEC HAS IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE
OR PRESS SPECULATION BECOMES FRANTIC. PRESS LIKELY TO ZERO IN
ON US ARMS TO PAKISTAN AND PLANNED BHUTTO VISIT WASHINGTON, AND
TRY TO PIN DOWN EXACTLY WHAT US WILL OR WILL NOT PROVIDE IN FUTURE,
ASKING UNANSWERABLE QUESTIONS.

3. FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS.
FORMAL ARRIVAL STATEMENT IS NOT REQUIRED HERE, BUT OFF- THE- CUFF
REMARKS ALONG LINE OF TALKING POINTS BELOW WOULD BE USEFUL IF
PRESS IS AT AIRPORT ON ARRIVAL. I RECOMMEND BRIEF DEPARTURE STATE-
MENT; SUGGESTION BELOW TO BE MODIFIED AS WARRANTED BY DEVELOP-
MENTS AND PRESS PLAY.

4. (ARRIVAL: " WHILE THIS IS NOT MY FIRST TRIP TO INDIA, I HAVE
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 03725 021400 Z

WANTED TO VISIT INDIA AND THE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA IN MY CAPACITY AS DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE. I TOOK UP THIS POST, THE NUMBER TWO POSITION IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, JUST A FEW MONTHS AGO. THE PURPOSE OF MY VISIT IS TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT LEADERS, TO HEAR THEIR VIEWS ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, AND TO EXCHANGE IDEAS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO OUR COUNTRIES. I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE AND LOOK FORWARD TO LEARNING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ABOUT CURRENT AFFAIRS IN INDIA DURING MY BRIEF STAY".

5. (DEPARTURE); " OUR VISIT TO INDIA HAS BEEN MOST WORTHWHILE. MR. SISCO AND I WANT TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO PRIME MINISTER GANDHI AND FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION IN RECEIVING US. WE HAD CORDIAL AND FRANK DISCUSSIONS REGARDING TOPICS OF CURRENT INTEREST TO OUR GOVERNMENTS, AND FOR ME IT WAS PARTICULARLY USEFUL TO HEAR THEIR VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN THE SUBCONTINENT.

" INDO- US RELATIONS HAVE, OF COURSE, HAD THEIR UPS AND DOWNS OVER THE YEARS. JUDGING BY PAST EXPERIENCE, I WOULD EXPECT THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEE ISSUES FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE FUTURE. BUT IF BOTH SIDES MAKE AN EFFORT TO REMAIN ALERT TO THE CONCERNS OF THE OTHER, I BELIEVE WE CAN KEEP OUR CONTACTS ON A MORE EVEN KEEL AND THEREBY CONCENTRATE OUR ENERGIES MORE ON THE PRODUCTIVE AND PROMISING ISSUES INVOLVED IN OUR COMMON PARTICIPATION IN WORLD AFFAIRS. IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT I HAVE COME TO INDIA AND IT IS WITH THIS SPIRIT

THAT I SHALL APPROACH MY ASSOCIATION WITH INDO- US RELATIONS AS DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE. AGAIN, MY THANKS FOR THE HOSPITABLE RECEPTION ACCORDED TO ME".
MOYNIHAN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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